# Virginia's Turning Point Initiative

Dr. E. Anne Peterson Acting State Health Commissioner

# Public Health is Changing

- Virginia is at a critical point
- How do we know what is needed?
- How do we re-define our role?
- Turning Point
  - community information
  - the impetus to strengthen Public Health
  - change facilitator

## Turning Point's Impact

- Turning Point offers a model for effective systems change
- Public-Private Partnership
- Community outreach provides valuable information

#### My Turning Point

• International experience

- Domestic
  - Centers for Disease Control
  - Food safety

#### Turning Point's Impact

- Strategic planning process
  - Communications
  - Access to Care
  - Environmental Health
  - Bioterrorism/Communicable Disease
  - Health Information
  - Workforce Development

## Turning Point's Value

- Great opportunity for innovation
- Implementation strategies will inform decision-makers
- Ultimate goal: to improve the health of the community

#### Parting Thoughts

- Turning Point is not just a nice idea or help to Health Department planning
- Communities often need prodding/help
- Turning Point is critical
- We need your expertise
- Create a national laboratory for innovative strategies
- Think strategically/outside-the-box